



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 8:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - July 11, 2001

- ***In the West***, scattered showers are boosting soil moisture reserves in the ***Intermountain region***. However, hot, dry weather in the ***Northwest*** is stressing pastures, filling winter wheat, and spring-sown small grains.
- ***On the Plains***, a serious heat wave continues to grip the ***southern half of the region***, adversely affecting reproductive summer crops, including corn, cotton, and peanuts. Today's high temperatures are forecast to reach 105 degrees F as far north as ***southwestern Kansas***. Meanwhile, beneficial showers continue in the ***northern half of the region***, including the drought-affected ***northern High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, beneficial showers and thunderstorms are returning to ***western areas***, where recent favorably dry weather followed an extremely wet spring. Elsewhere in the region, warm, dry weather favors winter wheat harvesting and corn and soybean development. Summer crops are approaching or entering reproduction across the ***southern half of the region***.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers continue from the ***Delta eastward***, maintaining generally favorable soil moisture levels for pastures and summer crops. However, heat is gradually intensifying across the region, increasing crop-water requirements. Today's high temperatures are forecast to approach 100 degrees F in the ***southern Atlantic piedmont*** and across inland areas from the ***Delta westward***.

Outlook: For the remainder of the week, widespread showers and thunderstorms are forecast to continue in the ***Southeast*** and across the ***northern half of the Plains***. Scattered showers will slowly spread across the ***western Corn Belt***, but cool, mostly dry weather is expected elsewhere in the ***Midwest***. Hot, dry conditions will persist in the ***south-central U.S.*** The NWS 6-10 day outlook for July 16-20 calls for wet weather across the ***northern half of the U.S.***, and mostly dry conditions in the ***South***. The exception will be areas along and near the ***Gulf Coast***, including ***Florida***, where near- to above-normal rainfall is forecast. Meanwhile, cool weather in the ***Southeast and Pacific Northwest*** will contrast sharply with above-normal temperatures in the ***Plains, Southwest, and western Corn Belt***.

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